

MARLBORO COUNTY COUNCIL

MARLBORO COUNTY CONFERENCE ROOM

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 2007

6 PM

CHAIRMAN JEAN WALLACE MCLEAN

VICE-CHAIR MICKEY ROGERS

ADMINISTRATOR CECIL KIMREY

COUNTY ATTORNEY DONNIE MCDONALD

COUNCIL:

JEAN MCLEAN,	JEFF QUICK,	
MICKEY ROGERS,	CORRIE H. PLATO,	
DR. CAROLYN PRINCE,	KEN ALLEN,	X
STEVE BLACKMON, AND	ANTHONY WOODS	X

* ABSENT

INVOCATION – Ms. Jean Wallace McLean, Chair

Ms. Jean Wallace McLean, Chair advised of the Triple Canopy project coming to Marlboro County.

RECOGNITION OF CITIZENS' REQUEST TO SPEAK

Due to the length of time expected to discuss the Audit Report, Council allowed the Citizens wishing to address them to speak first.

Ms. Penny Nobles addressed Council in regards to I-73. Ms. Nobles stated that the City of Bennettsville held a meeting to discuss I-73 and were in support of the Central route without discussing it with her or other citizens living in the Dunbar Community. She stated that if I-73 comes through the Central route she would loose her home and peach farm. She also advised that more people in Marlboro County would be displaced by the Central route than the western route. Ms. Nobles stated that she is not convinced personally that I-73 is a good thing for Marlboro County. She doesn't believe it will bring people here or make them get

off the interstate here. She asked Council to talk with the Citizens involved and get their opinions before making a decision. She said if she thought it would benefit Marlboro County – she would make the first sacrifice.

PRESENTATIONS

ROB JORDAN, HILL & JORDAN LLC – AUDIT REPORT ENDING JUNE 30, 2006

Copies of the preliminary Audit report for fiscal year ending June 30, 2006 were distributed to Council Members. Present at the meeting were Mr. Robert P. Jordan, CPA and Mr. Hiral Gopaldas, CPA. Mr. Jordan gave a recap of the Audit advising Marlboro County has experienced some negative economic experience during year and some positive. Mr. Jordan advised the County has a deficit of \$669,000 in the general fund. He stated that even though we incurred a significant deficit, it certainly was not as great as anticipated. He stated that approximately thirty percent (30%) of property tax revenue is derived from Industries in Marlboro County, losing an Industry will hurt. He advised the bottom line is there are no material weaknesses, issues of non-compliance or and found no matters of internal control.

Mr. Jordan advised that in the past it was recommended to have two (2) months of expenditures in fund balance, now, it is recommend local governments have three (3) months of expenditures in fund balance. Marlboro County's fund balance is decreasing. If Marlboro County experiences the 1,300,000 for next year it will decrease the expenditures down to three (3) months, may have to borrow money and will jeopardize the County's ability to meet its monthly obligations.

Council questioned why an inheritance left to the library on the Munnerlyn Trust fund was not included in the audit. Mr. David Myers had advised Council at the previous year end audit report that he would include it in the next years audit. Council questioned how the Library is getting the money, but it is not showing up on the books and where the money is going. Mr. Jordan advised he would contact Mr. McDonald, County Attorney and try to find it. It was noted the Bank of America sends the money to the Library, but what it is not known what is happening with it.

Dr. Carolyn Prince advised Mr. Jordan that she was not clear on his statement of where the funds come from to offset the fund balance decrease when it is only \$20,000. Mr. Jordan advised Council to flip to page 16, where he pointed out the columns for General Fund, Special Railroad Funds, Special Projects Funds, and Major Non-governmental Funds. He advised Council to look several rows down at the net changes in fund balances – deficit or amount in brackets of \$669,535 – look to the right side of it at the Special Revenue Fund which has a surplus of \$496,000. Dr. Prince questioned if this was the offset of the fund balance decrease. Mr. Jordan responded that it was the total complete fund balance of the County. He advised he was not saying it offset the deficit that run in the General Fund, he was saying you show these in comparison and come to a total of all governmental funds. The total governmental funds experienced a decrease of \$20,000, where last year it was \$200,000.

Mr. Jordan was advised by Ms. Jean Wallace McLean, Chair that Council may call them back for further discussion of the audit.

DISCUSSION OF BUDGET FY 2007-2008

Discussed briefly by Mr. Cecil Kimrey, County Administrator. Mr. Kimrey advised that balancing the budget will come down to several things, one being saying no to a lot of things. Only two things can be addressed – Revenues and Expenditures. He advised the various options looked at by the previous administrators to generate revenue would not have created a substantial amount. He advised expenditures will have to be cut.

Mr. Tommy Carabo, Finance Director advised a large portion of the budget is salaries of which nothing can be done.

Mr. Cecil Kimrey advised County needs to look more closely at grants requiring matching funds. He believes it may take up to two (2) years for the budget to be fully balanced. He stated staff is working on coming up with a comprehensive financial policy for the County to abide by, hopefully, this will be ready within thirty days.

Mr. Kimrey advised budget requests are substantial and will need to be addressed. He advised Council will need to address the needs and not the wants.

Council discussed the possibility of selling some of the properties owned by the County that are not needed and getting them back into the tax base.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion made by Ms. Mickey Rogers, seconded by Mr. Jeff Quick to go into executive session to discuss a legal matter concerning Weyerhaeuser. Vote in favor. Unanimous. Motion Carried.

Motion made by Mr. Jeff Quick, seconded by Ms. Corrie Plato to reenter open session. Vote in favor. Unanimous. Motion Carried.

Ms. Jean Wallace McLean, Chair advised no decisions had been made, no votes had been taken.

Motion made by Dr. Carolyn Prince, seconded by Ms. Mickey Rogers to add an item to the agenda as a Resolution. Vote in favor. Unanimous. Motion Carried.

Motion made by Dr. Carolyn Prince, seconded by Mr. Jeff Quick to approve the Resolution (#02-07-03) dealing with tax status of the Weyerhaeuser Company. Vote in favor. Unanimous. Motion Carried.

REPORTS

COMMITTEE REPORTS

ADMINISTRATIVE/FINANCIAL REPORT – CECIL KIMREY, INTERIM COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

Mr. Cecil Kimrey stated again that with dealing with the budget, there will be a lot of no's. A work session will be arranged for March.

Mr. Kimrey met with the CTC representative in Columbia, they would like to meet with Council, possibly do at same time as the budget work session – March 19th on a Monday, the 20th or 26th at 5:30 pm.

Mr. Donnie McDonald, County Attorney advised Triple Canopy has offered to take any council members interested up to their Virginia operation to see what they do. He has
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checked with the Association of Counties to determine there will be no ethical problems with Council accepting offer. Triple Canopy will fly Council there, spend the night, tour the operation, spend the night and return home the next day. Council will fly out of Raleigh or Charlotte, whichever Council prefers. Council will check on dates and advise of preferred time.

RECOGNITION OF COUNCIL MEMBERS

No discussion was heard.

ADJOURNMENT

There was no further discussion. The meeting was adjourned.

(SEAL)

JEAN WALLACE MCLEAN, CHAIR
MARLBORO COUNTY COUNCIL

ATTEST:

SUSAN E. RIVERS, CLERK
MARLBORO COUNTY COUNCIL

Date Adopted: March 8, 2007